(b) if so, what is Government's assessment in this regard; and

(c) the number of persons living below the poverty line in the rural areas at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) The number of persons living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) is estimated by the Planning Commission on the basis of the Quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the estimates provided by the Planning Commission, the poverty ratio in the rural areas of the country has reduced to 27.09 per cent (30 day recall period) in 1999-2000 from 37.27 per cent in 1993-94. The estimates for the year, 1999-2000 (30 day recall period) indicate that there were 1932.42 lakh persons living Below the Poverty Line in rural areas.

Funds for accelerating power reforms

*449. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Ministry is considering to provide more funds for accelerating power reforms in the States;

(b) if so, whether this will be in addition to the budget provisions of Rs. 4,000 crore sought by his Ministry;

(c) whether these funds will be invested in the States under the new Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme; and

(d) if so, to what extent the new programme will help in meeting demands of the States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) The Government of India has been providing financial assistance in the form of additional Central Plan Assistance under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) to bring about necessary reforms in the State Power Sector for it to achieve commercial viability. The Ministry of Finance had provided Rs. 1000 crores and Rs. 1500 crores in the FY 2000-01 and FY 2001-02 respectively and a provision of Rs. 3500 crores has been made for FY 2002-03. The funds are provided under APDP for systematic financing of projects relating to (a) renovation and modernization and life extension of old generating stations and (b) upgradation of Sub-transmission and Distribution network to bring about the desired efficiency in the distribution sector. Initially

63 distribution circles all over the country have been taken up for development as Centre of Excellence with the objectives of reducing T&D (technical as well as commercial) losses to 10-15 per cent as against existing over 50 per cent; improving quality and reliability of power supply and customer satisfaction through investment in upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network. It is proposed to take up all the circles in the country for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network during the 10th Plan. APDP is being used as a tool to engineer reforms in the distribution sector, which is crucial to bringing commercial viability of the power sector, given in the fact that over 75 per cent of total T&D losses take place at distribution stage. Distribution reform will bring about financial viability to the power sector to enable it to sustain investment in the sector.

Short-term schemes *viz.* consumer metering, capacitor installation, replacement/installation of distribution transforms and reconductoring have been sanctioned which would help in improvement of revenue realisation and reduction of outages in certain States.

Power generation from non-conventional energy sources

*450. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generation capacity added through various non-conventional energy sources in the year 2000-2001;

(b) the share of wind, solar and tidal power in the total power generated through these sources;

(c) what are the various incentives given to private power producers in setting up non-conventional energy power projects; and

(d) the amount sanctioned and spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Non-conventional energy based power projects of 330 MW aggregate capacity were installed during the year 2000-01. The share of wind power and solar power was 173 MW and 375 KW respectively. No tidal power project was installed.

(c) Fiscal and financial incentives such as relief in taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation and soft loans, are available. Policies have been introduced by several potential States to attract private sector participation.